Discovery of ancient civilization

650. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excavators have lately stumbled upon the remains of a busting ancient civilization and urban settlement in Kotabal, Anantnag district of South Kashmir;

(b) if so, what important and significant findings suggesting existence of such ancient urban settlements were made;

(c) whether any such findings suggesting ancient settlements and civilizations have also been made in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and other States during the last five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, recently carried out explorations in Kotabal, Distt. Anantnag, Kashmir. These explorations have reported to have revealed some decorative tiles bearing stamped geometrical, natural and abstract motifs. These tiles, forming part of a pavement, are similar to those found at Harwan, Distt. Srinagar, J&K. On stylistic grounds, the tiles are datable to *circa* 3rd-4th century A.D. The discovery suggests posssibility of an ancient settlement thriving at the find-spot.

(c) and (d) Such tiles are remains of their own kind and are not so far reported outside Kashmir, in any other State in India.

Original writings of Mahatma

651. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the original writings of Mahatma Gandhi have been tempered with;